

PRINCE  
RUPERT  
HIS  
REPLY  
TO A  
PAMPHLET.

ENTITLED,  
The Parliaments Vindication, in answer to  
Prince RUPERTS Declaration.

*Published by His Excellencies  
speciall command,*

To informe all His Majesties good  
Subjects, what false aspersions have  
beene cast upon him.

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Printed at Oxford by Leonard Lichfield, and now reprinted  
at London for Humphrey Blundevill. 1643.

REPLY

TO A

AMPHIBET

in answer to

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all the subjects who have

and now reprinted

Prince *Rupert* his Reply to a Pamphlet, intituled, The Parliaments Vindication; in answer to Prince *Ruperts* Declaration.



Made it almost a miracle that the world should see me in Print, when I set out my Declaration, to expurge my selfe, and disabuse the world from the calumnies which have been so maliciously cast upon me. But that which was voluntary before, is now enforced out of me against my disposition; I am engaged once more to appeare in Print, to returne backe those notorious and scandalous lies which an unknowne Esquire, ashamed to expresse his name more then *S. W.* in an answer to our Declaration, which he calls The Parliaments Vindication, hath fixed upon my name and honour, upon himselfe: and certainly were hee knowne to me, or one worth my anger, I should shape him a language in another Dialect: but though the wretch be so worthlesse, I cannot so much decline my blood and birth, as to make it a businesse to inquire him out; yet slanders (like a fatall poison) defiles it selfe unseene, and blasts mens memories. And as an ambush against the contagious venom of his aspersions, I shall divulge to the world the apparent forgeries in that Vindication, and the impertinency of it, as an answer to our Declaration. And certainly, in conscience, the honest men of the world must needs rather credit me a Prince, then the bare assertions of a namelesse fellow, who answers nothing at all positively, but circumstantially, and conjecturally to our former Declaration.

First, hee sayes ( and thinkes there he kills my integrity dead) that I spare the Presse for publishing my Declarations, and am more mercifull to Paper than to men; and that this Declaration pend in my owne favour, can no way right me, Is this any the least shew of reason? What can more right any man injured, then a reall explanation of his innocence? It was all I aymed at, not to satisfie such worthy Gentlemen as this Pamphleter is, but to give the noble and brave spirits, and honest minded Gentlemen and Citizens that are against us, a full and true intelligence, how much my fame had been traduced and vituperated by such Rascals, as this seems to be; whose apparen truths so honorably I conceive of the Parliament, thogh they love me not) could it know the audacious author of them, Its Justice would severely punish, and that hee knew well enough, when he onely set two doubtfull letters instead of his whole name before his Pamphlet.

And to that truth which I charged the Lord *Wharton* with, with an impertinent supposition he replies it may be answered, that my Lord *Wharton* knew the great advantage gotten at *Edge Hill*, had many concurrent Causes, and what that concerns my charge against that Lord, let all the world be Judge; and then in flat railing he comments upon, but not answers the sense of our Declaration; he tels the people that Prince *Rupert* and his troopers plundered the Countrey, and bids them aske the men whom we had plundered, and their generall affirmation would confute our particular assertion, and certifie the world, Prince *Rupert* cannot be innocent of these outrages; and that my Lord *Wharton* may be vindicated by that testimony, to have spoken nothing but truth: And that my Lord durst tell mee to my face, that I was a plundering Prince, and with his sword make prooffe there is nothing but forgery and falshood in my Declaration: but surely the fellow, though hee may have beene in my Lord *Whartons* company, is none of his Counsell, promising more in his behalfe then I believe his Lorthip will ever venture to performe. I could wish he durst or would verifie his

Cham.

Champions words, I should, waving all the disparity betwixt our bloods, gladly entertaine the motion and the successe should speake who was guilty of the untruth; but I feare his Lordship is not yet furnished with so noble a resolution, in time perhaps hee may be perswaded into it: but let my most severe enemies be my witness, how plaine, and without the least blemish my Declaration yet stands: for all the tedious circumstance this Esquire (for ought I know of the Damsels) hath cryed against its verity. It is a prooffe sufficient, that I have plundered houses, because he affirms it from the testimony of men in the Moone, for (surely upon this earth they have no residence. Where are those men that will affirme it? in what County or Towne stood those houses, by me or my sufferance betrayed to that misery of rapine? let him but name them, and I shall not deny mine owne act, when I am so palpably convinced; it were an impudence beyond all former examples. For the faint-heartednesse of their souldiers at *Keynton*, which I touch in my Declaration, it seemes the answer of it would make men believe the goodnesse of their cause must in point of necessity exalt their courage to the height of daring; in Gods name, let him strive to looth the people with a conceit wee were vanquish'd, I wish at no time better successe against any of his Majesties enemies then wee had at *Keynton*, or at *Worcester*. But as if this gallant had a priviledge for his railing untruths, hee comes upon us with questions as ridiculous as false, namely, who it was that compelled divers of their eminent Captaines to ride starke naked? who it was that drove their men like beasts before our Army? and then affirmatively he sayes, they tooke a religious Gentleman at *Thisleworth*, and fastned a cord to his feet, and dragg'd him about the towne, and then shot him with a pistoll. I shall doe the good Gentleman the honour to answer his questions, which, if they were true, yet what am I concern'd in them? For if the souldiers did as the law of armes allowes them, strip some of their Captaines, was I ingaged either to prohibe

bite them the making the best of their prisoners? or obliged to recloth those Captaines that were devested of their apparell? For driving their men like beasts before our army, belike the said Gentleman imagines wee are bound in courtesie to give them a foot, and give their men (our prisoners) our horses. If wee did drive them like beasts, wee were not much to blame to use them according to what indeed they were; but that they tooke a religious Gentleman at *Thistleworth*, and used as aforesaid, what *They* those were, is altogether beyond my knowledge, much more therefore distant either from my command or connivence; but it should seeme his *ipse dixit* is enough to render mee guilty, because he affirms 'tis well knowne wee continually use it in our army, and then with unnecessary digressions and repetitious, he runs on railing at my particular crueltie, saying, that I would make them believe I am just and mercifull, which they may sooner credit of a Butcher, who kills Sheepe for the goodnesse of their flesh; and so Prince *Rupert* murders the Kings Subjects for their good affections to the King and Parliament. An excellent purity, and worthy such an author as hath no name he dares be called by: where, or by what meanes, private or publike, have I sought the death of any of his Majesties Subjects? who is't can testifie this against me? certainly, were I arraigned before the severest and most partiall Juries in the world, they would acquit me, this mans bare asseveration would not condemne mee. Perhaps, as it is warrantable both by the laws of heaven and nations, in a lawfull war, to endeavour to destroy as many of ones enemies as come within his reach, that I must confesse I did at *Keynton*, and elsewhere, when I was call'd to it by just occasion, but that is no way a confirmation to his Butcherly comparison. Then as if he would convince me for the notoriousst lyer in the world, he tels me it doth not become the sonne of a King to stretch his words beyond belief: beyond his belief, he means, who (only because himself fancies it so) will conclude and averte it to the world, that whatso-

ever

ever I have protested is false. But I hope some man of quality, and all indifferent soules beside, will not let it be beyond their belife, and then I shall not trouble my selfe to thinke on so abject a persons calumny, who without feare of heaven or hell, or punishment for his impudence, goes on, taxing me for an Incendiary of these wars, inciting his Majestie, my royall Uncle, to a civill war against his loving Subjects: but I attest heaven and his sacred Majestie, as my witness, it is a crime I never was guilty of in thought, but alwayes desired that a faire atonement might (if it might with the honour of my royall Uncle have been effected) suddenly have proceeded betwixt him and his Parliament, and for that purpose have often beene an humble intercessor to his Majesty: For my taking away the Majors plate at *Reading*, and other places, if I had done such an action by the law of armes it might have been justified; but I must needs aske this fellow what those other places were? or where got hee the intelligence of my plundering the Maior of *Reading*? hee will answer, they said it; but who they were, he knowes not: in truth nor I neither, nor no man else; for if the Maior of *Reading* were put to his oath, I have so much confidence in the honestie of the man, that he would not only acquit me of that action, but report honourably of me, that I used him with all respects befitting a person of his worth to receive from one of my qualitie: and whereas he saies, my actions contradict my words, or else are not full of that sense they ought to be, surely the man is either very mad, or foolish, or both, he could never be so impudent else, or ignorant of the meaning of my words, which are plaine and perspicuous in my Declaration, namely, That I will never fight in an unrighteous quarrell; nor have I hitherto, nor ever will hereafter violate that promise, whatsoever aspersion this or the like slanderous Pamphlet shall cast upon me.

And whereas in the end of my Declaration I say, I should repute it the greatest victory in the world to see his Majestie enter *London* in peace without shedding one drop of blood or plundering any of one farthing: at that weapon hee thinks



thinks to pay mee home, demanding how any reasonable man can believe that I should desire it, when it is supposed I have beene the chiefe agent to provoke the King to advance his Army so neere it, and that I and my Cavaliers had divided the streets among us before our coming hither. This of all calumnies (with which his lawlesse false vindication is stuffed) is the most malicious and untrue, when I take heavens for my voucher in this truth, that there is no City in his Majesties Dominions, nay not in Europe, that I beare more unfeigned respects to, then to that famous and noble City, which I have alwayes accounted the most eminent appendix to my gracious Uncles Crowne, his Chamber and chiefe residence, and have alwayes thought of its Citizens as loyall and valiant men, and as well exercised in martiall discipline as any souldiers in Christendome. But I lose time in minding a thing so ridiculous as this vindication, much more in answering its contumelious falsehoods severally: nor might it befitme the dignitie of a Prince to have taken notice of so infamous a Libeller as this unknowne Esquire is, had not the importunitie of some friends prevailed above mine owne will with me, nor doubt I; but all the world will credit my asseverations, when they shall really consider the improbability and untruth of those of my accusers.

**FINIS.**